MARVEL

1

WHAT IF...? DARK

SPIDER-GWEN

GERRY CONWAY
JODY HOUSER
RAMÓN F. BACHS
DEE CUNNIFFE

LAND
fgd

SPIDER-MAN! OR SHOULD I SAY--MISTER PARKER?

I HAVE YOUR WOMAN UP HERE, MY FRIEND--

I TRUST YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS.?

YOU TELL ME, GOBLIN.

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, WEB-SPINNER...

YOUR PRESENCE IN THIS WORLD HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF CONSTANT AGONY TO ME.

I WISH YOU TO LEAVE IT-- PERMANENTLY.

OR ELSE... GWEN STACY DIES!

THAT CUTS IT, PUMPKIN BOY.

UP TO NOW, I'VE BEEN REAL FRIENDLY-- CONSIDERING YOUR PROBLEMS, AND ALL THAT.

BUT, BUSTER-- WHEN YOU START THREATENING MY GIRL--

--THE KID GLOVES ARE OFF!

A MOST CHIVALROUS ATTITUDE.

PITY YOU WON'T LIVE TO ENACT IT!

YOU KNOW SOMETHING, GOBLIN.?

SPUNCH

I THINK YOU MEAN IT!

CLOSE... VERY *CLOSE.*

MY *COLD'S* MAKING ME SO *DIZZY* I CAN HARDLY KEEP MY *BALANCE*--DON'T *DARE* TRY ANYTHING TRICKY.

ONCE THE GOBLIN CATCHES ON TO HOW *SICK* I AM-- I'VE *HAD* IT.!

SOOOO... I'M GOING TO HAVE TO CUT THIS *SHORT*...

...GET MY LADY LOVE *OUT* OF HERE...

...AND FINISH THINGS WITH GOBBIE *LATER!*

BRASH FOOL!

YOUR END IS *NEAR*--

--WHY BE SO BLIND AS NOT TO *SEE* IT?

NOW! I'VE GOT TO MOVE *NOW!*

I MAY NOT GET ANOTHER *CHANCE*--

--AND FOR *GWENDY'S* SAKE--

--I'VE GOT TO MAKE *THIS* ONE *COUNT!*

SPIDER-STRENGTH, IF EVER I NEEDED YOU--I NEED YOU *NOW!*

DON'T *BUM OUT* ON ME-- I DON'T HAVE ENOUGH *ENERGY* FOR ANOTHER TRY--

--I'VE GOT TO PUT *EVERYTHING* INTO THIS ONE PUNCH--

YOU *UNDERSTAND*, SPIDER-STRENGTH?

EVERYTHING I HAVE!

WHA-

KA-

KOW!!!

HE'S *DOWN*--FOR A *WHILE*, AT LEAST.

EVEN GETTING TOGETHER WHAT STRENGTH I HAVE *LEFT*--

--I COULDN'T PACK MUCH OF A *WALLOP*.

MY BEST BET IS TO PICK UP GWEN AND *RUN*.

AND THERE'S THE LADY *NOW*--OUT LIKE A *LIGHT*.

GOOD *THING*, TOO--IF SPIDEY'S TO SAVE HIS *SECRET I.D.!*

BUT, AS SPIDEY HURRIES TOWARD A JUBILANT *REUNION*--

GWEN!

LOOKS LIKE SHE'S IN A STATE OF *SHOCK!*

I'D BETTER GET HER TO A *HOSPITAL*-- HAVE THEM GIVE HER A *SEDATIVE* OF SOME KIND--

--*THE GREEN GOBLIN PERFORMS A REUNION OF HIS OWN, AIDED BY THE REMOTE-CONTROLLED FLYER OF HIS OWN DESIGN!*

YOU CURSED *INTER-LOPER!*

YOU'LL NEVER TAKE THAT GIRL *ANYWHERE!*

SHE'S *DOOMED*, DO YOU HEAR ME?

WHAK

DOOMED-- AND SO ARE *YOU!*

WHAT IF...?

MANY A PERSON IS SHAPED BY THE MEMORY OF THEIR DARKEST DAY.

FOREVER ALTERED BY A MOMENT ETCHED DEEP IN THEIR VERY MARROW.

GWEN!

COME ON...

OFTEN, THEY ARE HAUNTED BY THE CHOICES THEY MADE.

THE ACTIONS THEY DID OR DIDN'T TAKE.

GOTCHA!

IF THEY COULD DO IT ALL OVER AGAIN, TAKE A DIFFERENT PATH...

THWIP

SPIDER-POWERS, I LOVE--

...PERHAPS IT WOULD MERELY BE ANOTHER IN AN ENDLESS STRING OF CLOSE CALLS.

HAHAHAHA!

DID YOU *REALLY* THINK IT WOULD BE THAT EASY?!

SNNIPP

PERHAPS NOT.

GWEN--

PERHAPS SOME MOMENTS MUST ALWAYS BE PAID FOR IN BLOOD.

KRAK

SPLASH

!

÷GASP÷

WHERE AM I?! WHAT'S--?

SP... SPIDER-MAN?!

HEY... HEY! ARE YOU...?

OH NO...

OH GOD!

PETER, NO!

OH YES, PETER!

THE FOOL SEALED HIS OWN FATE!

I'LL LET YOU LIVE...FOR NOW.

LIVE AND REMEMBER PETER PARKER'S UTTER FAILURE.

IN HER SHOCK, GWEN HAD DONE WHAT SEEMED BEST.

PROTECTED THE MAN SHE LOVED.

THAT MONSTER... *KIDNAPPED* US. AND THEN I... I FELL...

PETER...HE JUMPED IN... SAVED ME.

NYPD

IN THE EYES OF THE WORLD, PETER PARKER DIED A HERO.

WHAT DID THE DETAILS MATTER?

HECK OF A THING, SAVING YOUR LIFE.
NEVER WOULD HAVE *GUESSED* PETER HAD IT IN HIM.
WHAT THE *HELL* WAS THE KID THINKING, PLAYING HERO LIKE THAT?!
I TELL YOU, ALL THOSE PICTURES OF *SPIDER-MAN* GOT IN HIS HEAD, AND--
JONAH! THIS ISN'T THE PLACE!
DID *ANYONE* KNOW WHO PETER REALLY WAS?
WAS HE REALLY CARRYING THAT ALL BY *HIMSELF?*
HOW ARE YOU HOLDING UP, GWEN?
DO YOU WANT TO GO GRAB SOME COFFEE OR SOMETHING?
THANKS, MJ. I *JUST...*
I THINK I NEED TO BE *ALONE* RIGHT NOW.

THE FORMER RESIDENCE OF ONE PETER PARKER, A.K.A. SPIDER-MAN.

GWEN SUSPECTED SHE WOULD FIND LITTLE HERE, SAVE FOR GRIEF AND GHOSTS.

BUT WHERE ELSE COULD SHE LOOK FOR ANSWERS TO THE QUESTIONS SHE NEVER HAD THE CHANCE TO ASK?

AND SO, SHE RETURNED DAY AFTER DAY...

WHERE *ARE* YOU, HARRY OSBORN?

YOU HAVE TO COME HOME SOMEDAY.

DON'T YOU?

...HOPING EACH TIME THAT THERE WOULD FINALLY BE SOMEONE TO OPEN THE DOOR.

...GWEN?

HARRY.

I'M *SORRY* I...

...THAT I WASN'T...

I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'S--

IT JUST DOESN'T FEEL REAL.

COULD I...?

I'D LIKE TO SIT IN HIS ROOM FOR A WHILE. IF THAT'S *ALL RIGHT.*

OF COURSE, GWEN.

HOWEVER LONG YOU NEED.

CLICK

IT FEELS SO *EMPTY...*

COME ON. GET IT TOGETHER.

THERE WERE NO ANSWERS TO BE FOUND AMONG PETER'S THINGS.

ONLY REMNANTS OF ANOTHER LIFE THAT GWEN HAD NEVER KNOWN.

A LIFE THAT HAD BEEN STOLEN RIGHT IN FRONT OF HER.

MAYBE IT WASN'T ANSWERS SHE'D BEEN LOOKING FOR, AFTER ALL.

NO... NO...

HMM, MAYBE...

OKAY, GWEN...

...NOW WHAT?

OKAY. THIS CAN'T BE *TOO* HARD.

RIGHT?

THE MECHANISM LOOKS SIMPLE ENO--

GAH!

THWIP

OKAY. *FEELS* SECURE.

AS THE COLD WIND WHIPPED AROUND HER, ONE TRUTH RANG CRYSTAL CLEAR IN THAT MOMENT...

...GWEN STACY COULDN'T TAKE THAT STEP.

NO, NO, NO, NO, NO.

SHE POSSESSED NO POWERS. NO TRAINING.

JUST WHAT THE BOY SHE LOVED HAD LEFT BEHIND.

AND A COSTUME WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH. NOT FOR WHAT SHE WANTED.

SHE NEEDED HELP.

AND WHO BETTER TO TURN TO THAN A FRIEND WHO WAS AS HEARTSICK AS SHE WAS?

YOU WANT ME TO *WHAT?!*

I WANT YOU TO HELP ME *STOP* THE GREEN GOBLIN.

GWEN, I *KNOW* YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH *A LOT--*

DON'T YOU WANT TO *MAKE HIM PAY?!*

YOU THINK I WOULDN'T WRING THE *LIFE* OUT OF THAT MONSTER WITH MY *BARE HANDS* IF I HAD THE CHANCE?

PETER WAS MY *BEST FRIEND.*

BUT WE'RE JUST TWO NORMAL *COLLEGE KIDS.* THIS IS *WAY* OUT OF OUR LEAGUE.

LEAVE IT TO THE *POLICE* OR *SPIDER-MAN--*

SPIDER-MAN IS *DEAD,* HARRY.

PETER WAS SPIDER-MAN.

...

HOW...?

HE... HE NEVER *TOLD* ME.

I DIDN'T KNOW *EITHER.*

NOT UNTIL--

BUT *HE* KNEW. THE *GOBLIN.*

HE *KNEW* WHO PETER WAS. HE KNEW HE COULD USE *ME* TO HURT PETER.

AND THAT'S *EXACTLY* WHAT HE DID.

YOU CAN'T BLAME *YOURSELF* FOR WHAT HAPPENED, GWEN.

IT'S NOT *YOUR FAULT.*

NO. IT'S *HIS.* AND I *NEED* TO MAKE HIM PAY.

WILL YOU HELP ME?

...WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN MIND?

AND SO, A PLAN BEGAN TO FORM. BUILT OFF THE GENIUS OF THEIR LOST FRIEND.

I *THINK* THIS WILL WORK.

IF YOU SAY SO...

FORGED IN THEIR SHARED SORROW AND RAGE.

HERE?

TOO MUCH FOOT TRAFFIC, EVEN AT NIGHT.

THE THEATER DEPARTMENT WAS ABOUT TO THROW THIS STUFF OUT. THEY WON'T MISS IT.

THANKS, MJ. YOU'RE A *LIFESAVER.*

YOU KNOW, IF YOU'RE UP FOR A COSTUME PARTY, I HOPE YOU'LL BE UP FOR THAT COFFEE DATE SOON.

I'VE BEEN *WORRIED* ABOUT YOU, GWEN.

I KNOW. SOON. I *PROMISE.*

CAREFULLY...

AND THAT SHOULD JUST ABOUT DO IT.

BUT THERE WAS ONE ASPECT OF THE PLAN THAT GWEN DIDN'T SHARE WITH HARRY.

THE TINIEST OF DETAILS THAT SHE FEARED HER RELUCTANT ALLY WOULD NEVER AGREE TO.

THE GUN HAD ONCE BEEN THE SERVICE WEAPON OF CAPTAIN GEORGE STACY.

PERHAPS IT COULD SOMEHOW ADD A VENEER OF JUSTICE TO THE UGLY TASK BEFORE HER.

BUT HOW TO LURE THE MONSTER INTO THE TRAP THEY HAD BUILT?

GWEN WAS CONVINCED THE GOBLIN WOULD BE DRAWN BACK TO THE SCENE OF HIS BRUTAL VICTORY.

WHAT?!

THAT HE WOULD WANT TO CELEBRATE. TO GLOAT.

WEBBING...?

BAH!

STILL ALIVE!
I'LL BE WAITING AT 910 WEST 52 nd STREET

AND IF GWEN COULD RIP THAT VICTORY OUT OF HIS HANDS...

...SHE COULD STEER HIM IN WHATEVER DIRECTION SHE WANTED.

I CAN SEE THE GLIDER. HE'S INCOMING.

GET READY.

YOU IMPERTINENT LITTLE *BUG!*

THIS TIME, I'LL MAKE *SURE* YOU'RE DEAD!

ALMOST THERE!

GET READY...

WHERE *ARE* YOU, YOU LITTLE--?

BEEP

FWOOM

FWOOM

WHA--?!

FWOOM

FWOOM

NO!

STAY HIDDEN.

YOU DON'T HAVE A MASK.

IT'S AMAZING STUFF, ISN'T IT?

PETER WAS A *GENIUS.*

AND NOW HE'S DEAD.

BECAUSE OF *YOU.*

NNNNGH! NOT BAD...FOR AN *IMPOSTOR.*

SO, WHAT'S THE *PLAN* NOW THAT YOU'VE *CAUGHT* ME?

ARREST ME? JUSTICE FOR THE POOR *SQUASHED* SPIDER?

YOU *KNOW* I'LL TELL EVERYONE WHO HE *REALLY* WAS.

THIS WAS THE MOMENT SHE HAD BEEN WORKING FOR, BEEN WAITING FOR.

SHE HAD TOLD HERSELF HOW EASY IT WOULD BE. JUST A SLIGHT MOVEMENT OF THE FINGER.

OH, *REALLY?* YOU THINK YOU HAVE IT IN YOU TO *ACTUALLY* STOP ME?

THAT *YOU* CAN DO WHAT THE *REAL* SPIDER-MAN *FAILED* TO?

ALL SHE HAD TO DO WAS REMEMBER THAT MOMENT WITH PETER IN THE WATER.

AND SO, SHE REMEMBERED PETER.

BRILLIANT AND SILLY.

BRIMMING WITH LIFE AND PURPOSE AND POTENTIAL.

SO MUCH MORE THAN SHE EVER KNEW.

HAHAHAH!

I *KNEW* YOU WERE TOO *WEAK* TO PULL THE TRIGGER.

NO.

THAT'S NOT IT AT ALL.

YOU?!

PETER WASN'T WEAK. HE WAS A *HERO.* HE DIDN'T END YOU BECAUSE THAT'S *NOT* WHO HE WAS.

AND I'M NOT GOING TO *BETRAY* THAT.

SUCH *SENTIMENTAL DRIVEL.*

I SHOULD HAVE *KILLED* YOU WH--

BA-NG

HOW--?

NO...

I'M NOT WEAK.

AND I'M NO HERO.

HA... HARRY...

S... SON...

IT... IT CAN'T BE...

FATHER... YOU'RE--

HARRY... I DIDN'T...

...I DIDN'T *KNOW*...

YOU DID THIS.

YOU *MADE* ME DO THIS.

NO. I *NEVER* WANTED YOU TO--

YOU MURDERER!

I'LL MAKE YOU PAY!

MAYBE IT WAS HER FAULT. SHE HAD DRAGGED HARRY INTO HER SCHEME.

SHE WAS THE REASON HE WAS THERE.

AND SO, SHE DID THE ONLY THING SHE COULD THINK OF.

KNOWING THAT SHE COULD NEVER OUTRUN THE SOUND OF THAT GUNSHOT...

...OR THE HATE IN HER FRIEND'S EYES.

MANY A PERSON TRIES TO BLOT OUT THE MEMORY OF THEIR DARKEST DAY.

THEY CAN DROWN THE EVIDENCE.

SLIP BACK INTO THE STAID RHYTHM OF NORMAL LIFE.

BUT THE DARKNESS IS NOT SO EASILY BANISHED.

PETER PARKER
BELOVED NEPHEW
AND FRIEND

I'M SURE YOU'D MAKE SOME STUPID JOKE ABOUT HOW I'M ***SHOWING YOU UP*** WITH THESE FLOWERS.

I NEVER THOUGHT I COULD MISS YOUR JOKES ***SO*** MUCH.

OH, ***PETER.*** I JUST...

I'M ***GLAD*** YOU CAN'T SEE THE MESS I'VE MADE OF THINGS.

BUT I'LL FIND A WAY TO MAKE THIS ***RIGHT.***

I ***SWEAR*** IT.

WHEN A HERO DIES, IT LEAVES A VACUUM.

AND NATURE DOES WHAT NATURE DOES.

MAYBE GWEN STACY DIDN'T HAVE POWERS. WAS STILL UNTESTED.

BUT SHE HAD MADE A PROMISE.

SHE'D HELPED MAKE A MONSTER.

HAHAHAHA!

OH, HARRY...

AND SHE WAS DONE HIDING FROM BOTH.

MAYBE SHE WASN'T READY TO CALL HERSELF A HERO JUST YET...

...BUT SHE WAS FINALLY STEPPING OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF HER DARKEST DAY.

END.

The Marvel Universe is filled with infinite possibilities. One small choice can change the course of history and set the universe on any number of different paths. What if those choices, those moments, turned the situation...dark?

WHAT IF...? DARK

SPIDER-GWEN

What if...on the night of the fateful battle against the **GREEN GOBLIN**-- *Peter Parker, A.K.A.* **THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN,** *had died, NOT Gwen Stacy?!*

GERRY CONWAY AND JODY HOUSER
PLOT

JODY HOUSER
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NEXT

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
20¢
121
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
SOMEONE CLOSE TO ME IS ABOUT TO DIE!
SOMEONE I CANNOT SAVE!
MY SPIDER SENSE IS NEVER WRONG!
BUT WHO? WHO?
JOHN ROMITA
NOT A TRICK! NOT AN IMAGINARY TALE! BUT THE MOST STARTLINGLY UNEXPECTED
TURNING POINT
IN THIS WEB-SLINGER'S ENTIRE LIFE! HOW CAN SPIDER-MAN GO ON, AFTER BEING FACED WITH THIS ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE DEATH?
AND, DON'T DARE MISS THIS ISSUE'S SHOCKING SURPRISE SUPER-VILLAIN!

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #121

IF YOU WANT TO READ THE CLASSIC TALE... "THE NIGHT GWEN STACEY DIED"!

SPIDER-GWEN: SHADOW CLONES #4

CHECK GHOST-SPIDER OUT IN THE CURRENT MINISERIES ON SALE NOW!

EDGE OF SPIDER-VERSE #2 (2014)

FOR THE ORIGIN OF GWEN STACY, SPIDER-WOMAN!

ZONE